

National Qualifications 2022

X807/77/02

Biology Section 1 — Questions

THURSDAY, 19 MAY 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Instructions for the completion of Section 1 are given on *page 02* of your question and answer booklet X807/77/01.

Record your answers on the answer grid on page 03 of your question and answer booklet.

Before leaving the examination room you must give your question and answer booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.



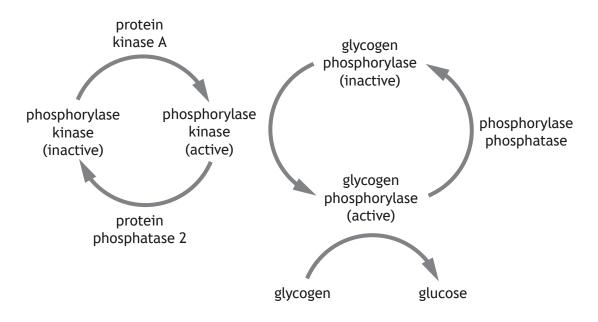


SECTION 1 — 20 marks Attempt ALL questions

- 1. SDS-PAGE separates proteins by:
 - A shape
 - B size
 - C charge
 - D isoelectric point.
- 2. Which row in the table describes functions of compartments involved in the synthesis and transport of proteins?

	Compartment			
	Smooth endoplasmic reticulum	Rough endoplasmic reticulum	Golgi apparatus	
A	post-translational modification	lipid synthesis	protein transport	
В	lipid synthesis	protein transport	post-translational modification	
С	lipid synthesis	post-translational modification	protein transport	
D	post-translational modification	protein transport	lipid synthesis	

3. The figure gives information about enzymes involved in glycogen metabolism in humans.



Which row in the table describes events when the enzyme protein kinase A is activated?

	Phosphate group attached to glycogen phosphorylase	Glycogen converted to glucose
Α	yes	yes
В	yes	no
С	no	no
D	no	yes

[Turn over

- 4. Which of the following are null hypotheses?
 - 1. Blackbirds show no food preference based on colour.
 - 2. As people age, they do not respond to certain painkillers.
 - 3. As concentration of inhibitor increases, enzyme activity decreases.
 - 4. Increasing light intensity will not affect the rate of germination of cress seeds.
 - A 1 and 4 only
 - B 2 and 3 only
 - C 2 and 4 only
 - D 1, 2 and 3 only
- 5. Statins are drugs used to treat people with cardiovascular disease. One large study investigating the effectiveness of a statin drug randomly assigned patients to two groups: one group received the statin; the other group was given a placebo.

One measure of the effectiveness of a treatment is the *relative risk*, which can be calculated using the formula:

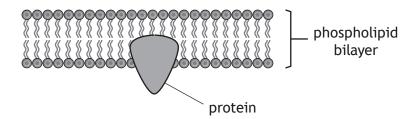
Relative risk = $\frac{\text{percentage of death in treatment group}}{\text{percentage of death in control group}}$

After a period of approximately six years, 91% of the patients given the statin and 87% of patients given the placebo survived.

The relative risk for those given the statin is:

- A 0.69
- B 0.96
- C 1.05
- D 1.44

6. The diagram shows a protein molecule and the cell membrane.



Which row in the table identifies features of this protein?

	Protein type		Nature of R gro surf	
	Integral	Peripheral	Hydrophobic	Hydrophilic
A	\checkmark		1	
В		✓	1	✓
С	✓		1	1
D		\checkmark		✓

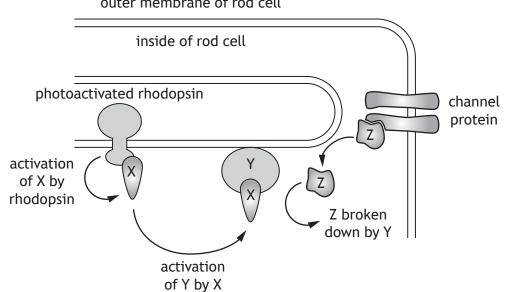
- 7. The response to an increase in insulin concentration in the blood involves the following events.
 - 1. Recruitment of GLUT 4 to the cell membrane.
 - 2. A phosphorylation cascade inside the cell.
 - 3. Insulin receptor changes conformation.
 - 4. Phosphorylation of the insulin receptor.
 - 5. Binding of insulin to its receptor.

The correct sequence of these events is:

- A 5, 4, 3, 1, 2
- B 2, 4, 3, 5, 1
- C 5, 3, 4, 2, 1
- D 5, 3, 1, 2, 4

[Turn over

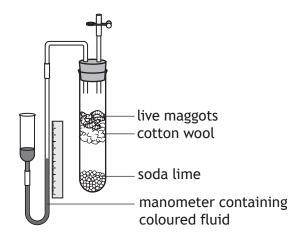
8. The diagram shows events in the response to light in the rod cells of animals.



When a photon of light hits a molecule of rhodopsin it activates molecule X, which disassociates from rhodopsin and activates another molecule, Y. Activated Y breaks down molecule Z, which in turn affects the function of a channel protein.

	Molecule X	Molecule Y	Molecule Z
А	cGMP	transducin	PDE
В	transducin	PDE	cGMP
С	PDE	transducin	cGMP
D	transducin	cGMP	PDE

9. A respirometer was used to measure the rate of respiration in maggots as shown in the diagram. The soda lime was present to absorb the carbon dioxide produced by the maggots during respiration. The manometer was used to measure the decrease in gas volume over a fixed time period.



It was found that the decrease in gas volume, and hence the oxygen consumed, in the respirometer was 0.24 cm^3 per gram of maggots.

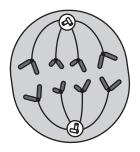
The experiment was repeated with identical conditions except that the soda lime was replaced with an equal volume of plastic beads, allowing the measurement of the net change in both carbon dioxide and oxygen. The net change in volume in this experiment was found to be a decrease of 0.07 cm^3 per gram of maggots.

The respiratory quotient is calculated using the equation:

 $Respiratory \ quotient = \frac{volume \ of \ carbon \ dioxide \ produced}{volume \ of \ oxygen \ consumed}$

Calculate the respiratory quotient for the maggots in this experiment.

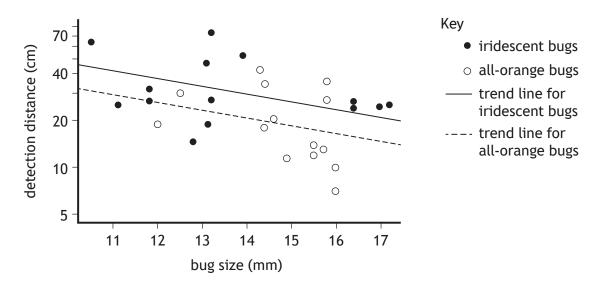
- A 0.29
- B 0.71
- C 1.41
- D 3.43
- 10. The diagram represents a cell in which stage of mitosis?



- A Metaphase
- B Prophase
- C Telophase
- D Anaphase

11. The cotton harlequin bug has highly variable coloration; individuals may be all-orange or have blue-green iridescent patches of variable size. The bright orange colour induces avoidance behaviour in birds but not in arthropod predators such as the praying mantis. The praying mantis lacks a red photoreceptor and has difficulty distinguishing the all-orange bugs from a green background.

The graph shows results from an experiment that was carried out to compare the ability of praying mantises to detect all-orange and iridescent bugs of different sizes from different distances.



The following conclusions were drawn:

- 1. Both colour and size of bugs affect detection distance.
- 2. Iridescent bugs are mostly larger than all-orange bugs.
- 3. The negative correlation between bug size and detection distance shows that smaller bugs were detected from further away.

Which of the conclusions are consistent with the data shown?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 1 and 3 only
- C 2 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3

12. Which row in the table shows a model organism correctly classified?

	Model organism	Taxonomic group
Α	Caenorhabditis elegans	Bacteria
В	Escherichia coli	Nematoda
С	Arabidopsis thaliana	Chordata
D	Drosophila melanogaster	Arthropoda

- 13. Which of the following descriptions of animal behaviour is anthropomorphic?
 - A Woodlice consistently prefer damp environments.
 - B Rats may be very cautious about eating new foods presented to them.
 - C Lekking behaviour in a male black grouse encourages females to mate.
 - D A greedy herring gull was recently observed swallowing a whole blackbird.

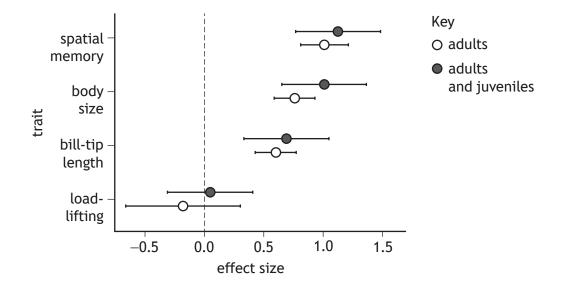
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14. Male long-billed hermit hummingbirds (*Phaethornis longirostris*) defend a territory (favoured perch). At the same time, they have to forage successfully for nectar-producing flowers over great distances. The ability to recall rewarding locations efficiently (spatial memory) allows more time to be spent defending the territory.



An experiment was carried out to compare the importance of this spatial memory to the importance of three physical phenotypic traits: body size, bill-tip length and load-lifting ability. The importance of each trait was represented by an 'effect size'. The larger the effect size the greater the effect on its ability to defend a territory.

The figure shows the effect size for all four traits.



Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the data?

- A There is no difference between adults and juveniles.
- B The ability to recall the position of nectar-producing flowers increases the ability to defend a territory.
- C No conclusion can be drawn as none of the differences in the data are significant.
- D Adults always have a smaller territory.

15. Four students carried out an experiment to measure the glucose concentration of a carton of fruit juice. Each student measured the values four times.

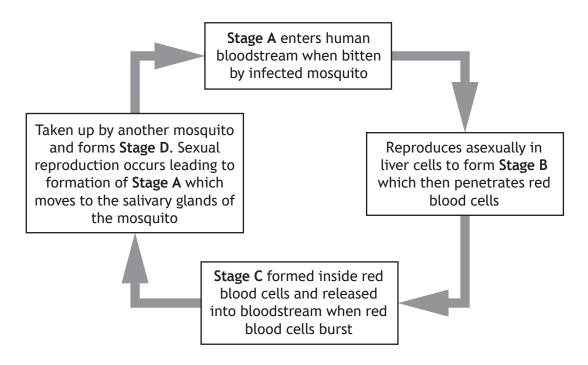
Student	Cor	Mean (mg/100 ml)			
1	10	16	8	18	13
2	15	13	12	15	14
3	17	10	12	17	14
4	10	9	10	10	10

The table shows the readings obtained.

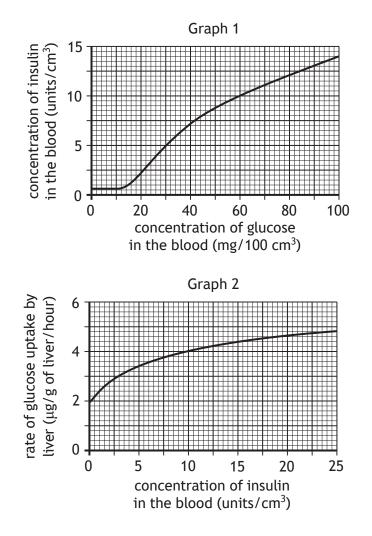
The actual concentration of glucose in the fruit juice was 12 mg/100 ml.

Which statement best describes the data set?

- A Accurate, but not precise
- B Precise, but not accurate
- C Accurate and precise
- D Neither accurate or precise
- 16. The figure shows some of the stages in the life cycle of the malarial parasite, *Plasmodium*. Which of the four stages described is a gametocyte?



17. Graphs 1 and 2 show how the rate of glucose uptake by the liver is affected by the concentrations of glucose and insulin in the blood.



The **mass** of glucose taken up in 30 minutes by a 1.4 kg liver when the concentration of glucose in the blood is $60 \text{ mg}/100 \text{ cm}^3$ is:

- A 2 μg
- B 4 μg
- C 2800 μg
- D 5600 μg.

18. The table shows information concerning some characteristics of three species of MacArthur's warblers, which are closely related species of insectivorous songbirds living in spruce forests in north-eastern USA.

	Species of MacArthur's warblers		
	Setophaga fusca	Setophaga castanea	
Foraging zone	treetops	trunk area of trees	middle interior portions of trees
Nesting sites	high in trees near tips of branches	horizontal branches in trees up to 15 m	lower portions of spruce and fir trees
Food sources	insect larvae, spiders and spruce budworm	insects, insect larvae and spruce budworm	insects, spiders and spruce budworm
Nesting period	May–July	May–July	May–July

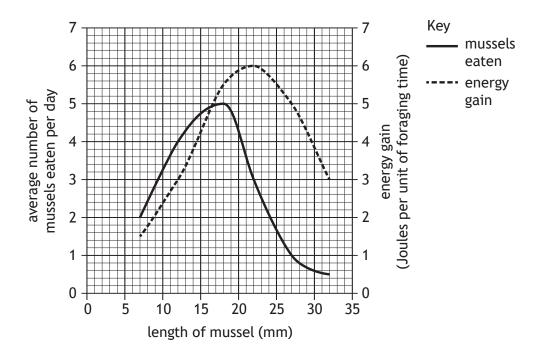
The strongest evidence of resource partitioning between these three species comes from the analysis of their:

- A foraging zone and nesting period
- B nesting sites and food sources
- C nesting period and food sources
- D foraging zone and nesting sites.

[Turn over

19. During an investigation into foraging behaviour, a student studied prey selection by shore crabs feeding on mussels. The student observed the crabs feeding and measured the length of each mussel predated on by the crabs over several days. The results were compared with another study where the energy expended by a crab to open a mussel of a specific size was compared to the energy content of the mussel to allow the energy gained per unit of foraging time to be calculated.

The results are shown in the graph.



What conclusion can be drawn from the results?

- A Shore crabs don't select prey on the basis of size.
- B As prey size increases, foraging becomes less efficient.
- C As prey size increases, foraging becomes more efficient.
- D Shore crabs tend to select prey sizes that make foraging more efficient.
- 20. Which of the following characteristics is most likely to be found in an r-selected species?
 - A Produce a large number of small offspring
 - B Most offspring reach adulthood
 - C Have a longer generation time
 - D High level of parental care

[END OF SECTION 1. NOW ATTEMPT THE QUESTIONS IN SECTION 2 OF YOUR QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOKLET]

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X807/77/01			Section	on 1 -	B Answe and Sec	iology er grid tion 2
THURSDAY, 19 MAY 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM					* X 8 0 7 7	701*
Fill in these boxes and read			Town			
Forename(s)	Surn	ame			Number	of seat
Date of birth Day Month	Year	Scottish c	andidate	number		
Total marks — 100						

SECTION 1 — 20 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

Instructions for the completion of Section 1 are given on page 02.

SECTION 2 — 80 marks

Attempt ALL questions.

A supplementary sheet for question 1 is enclosed inside the front cover of this question paper. Question 14 contains a choice.

Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided in this booklet. Additional space for answers and rough work is provided at the end of this booklet. If you use this space you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting. Any rough work must be written in this booklet. Score through your rough work when you have written your final copy. Use **blue** or **black** ink.

Before leaving the examination room you must give this booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.





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SECTION 2 — 80 marks Attempt ALL questions Question 14 contains a choice

1.	Read through the supplementary sheet for question 1 before attempting this
	question.

(a) Mammals have both specific and non-specific defences against parasites. Antibody production is a specific immune response.

Describe how one non-specific defence protects against parasites.

(b)	Refer	to	Figure	1.
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There is a positive correlation between total blood antibody concentration before and total blood antibody concentration after measles infection.

What conclusion can be drawn about the effect of measles on the total antibody concentration in the blood?

(c) (i) Refer to Figure 2.

Give a conclusion about the effect of infection with the measles virus on antibody diversity.

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1. (c) (continued)

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(ii) Refer to Figure 2.

The mean age of the control group and the measles infected groups was around eight years old, but the mean age of the group vaccinated against measles was less than two years old, as this is the normal age for measles vaccination.

Suggest why the antibody diversity might be expected to increase more in younger children compared to the control children.

- (d) Refer to Figure 3.
 - (i) Calculate the percentage decrease in the proportion of antibodies still present between the medians of the control group and the severely affected measles group.

Space for calculation

(ii) Other than the differences in the median values, use the data to compare the effect of the severity of measles infections on the proportion of antibodies still present.

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(iii) Previous studies have suggested that loss of memory cells may contribute to the immune suppression observed after measles virus infection.

Explain how the data support this hypothesis.



MARKS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN Many species of bacteria can be grown in liquid culture. 2. (a) State the importance of aseptic technique when culturing micro-organisms. 1 (b) A haemocytometer can be used to estimate the number of bacterial cells in a liquid culture. The figure represents bacterial cells from a culture, placed in a haemocytometer that has a depth of 0.1 mm. 1 mm \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc mm \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc Calculate the number of cells per cm³ of the liquid culture. 1 Space for calculation _____ cells per cm³



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2. (continued)

(c) An experiment was carried out to compare the effects of two novel antimicrobial substances, compounds A and B, on the growth of the bacterium *E. coli*. Cultures of *E. coli* were grown in the presence of the compounds. Cell counts were carried out following vital staining with a dye that is only retained by non-viable cells.

Results from the experiment are shown in the table.

Antimicrobial	Mean num	ber of cells
compound in culture	Stained by vital stain	Not stained by vital stain
A	380	40
В	385	127

(i) State which of the antimicrobial compounds is more effective at killing bacterial cells and use the data to explain your choice.

Most effective antimicrobial _____

Explanation ____

- (ii) What method, other than vital staining, can be used to determine the number of viable bacterial cells in a liquid culture?
- (iii) Benzalkonium chloride is an antimicrobial compound found in products such as handwashes. It works by disrupting the interactions between the phospholipids of the cell membrane.

Suggest how this disruption could lead to cell death.

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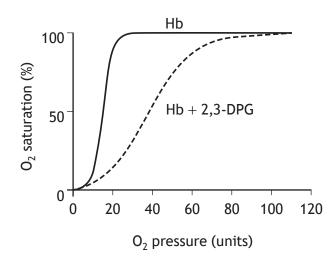
MARKS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN 3. Haemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying protein in the blood of vertebrates, consists of four subunits: two alpha (α) subunits and two beta (β) subunits. The α and β subunits have similar tertiary structure. Each subunit contains a haem group, which binds to oxygen to produce oxyhaemoglobin. haem α_1 a haemoglobin (a) Within each haemoglobin subunit, a high proportion of the amino acids in the polypeptide form α -helices. State the main force stabilising these regions. 1 (b) Explain why haem is described as a prosthetic group. 1 (c) Haemoglobin is affected by a number of allosteric interactions. Allosteric interactions between the oxygen-binding sites result in co-operativity. Explain what is meant by co-operativity in haemoglobin. 1



3. (continued)

(d) The compound 2,3-diphosphoglycerate (2,3-DPG) is an allosteric modulator that binds haemoglobin (Hb).

The graph shows the effect of 2,3-DPG on the binding of oxygen.



- (i) Explain how the data show that 2,3-DPG is acting as a negative modulator.
- (ii) The concentration of 2,3-DPG in the blood is normally 5 mmol per litre, but this rises to approximately 8 mmol per litre in individuals living at high altitude.

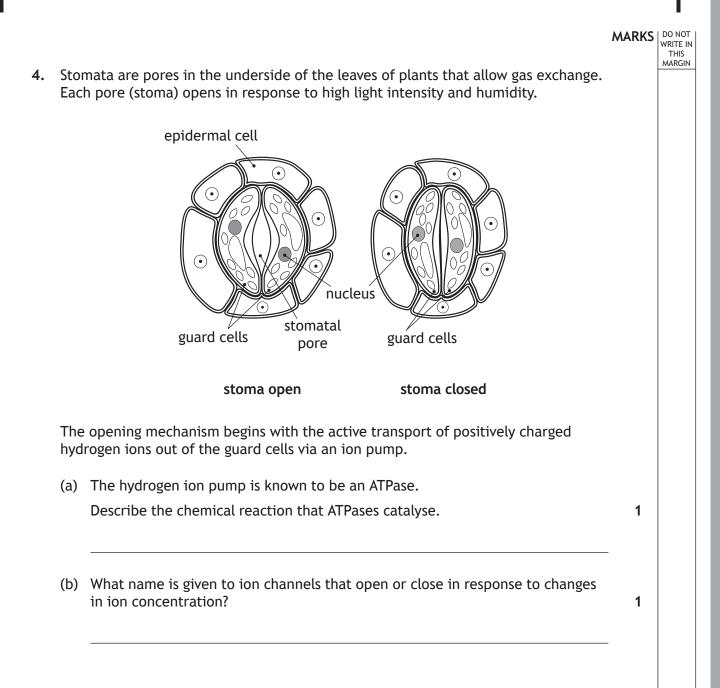
Explain how this increase in 2,3-DPG concentration at high altitude would help oxygen delivery to tissue.

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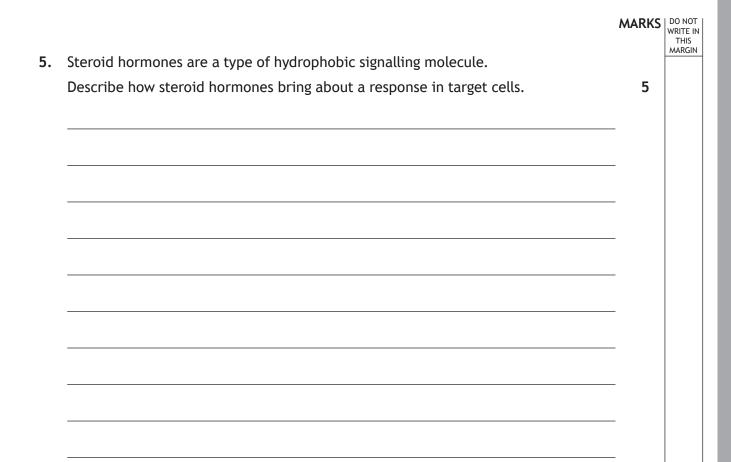




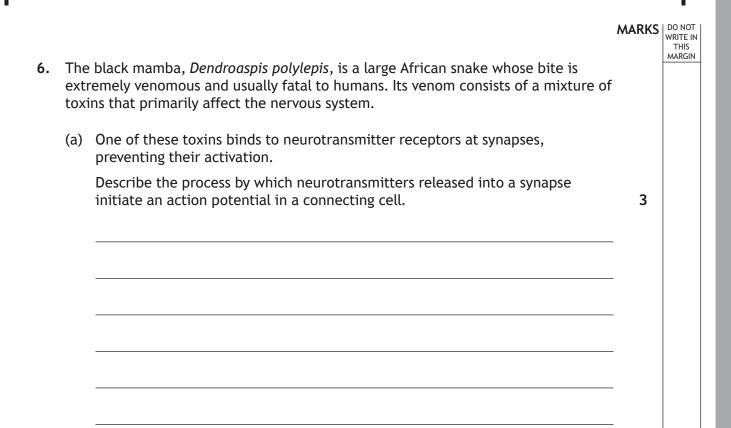


4.	(con	tinue	ed)	MARKS	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
	(c)	(i)	Explain the meaning of the term electrochemical gradient.	1	
				_	
		(ii)	The movement of hydrogen ions out of the guard cells causes the inside of the cell to become more negatively charged, which in turn results in the opening of potassium ion channels. The final event in the process is the movement of water molecules into the guard cells by osmosis, which results in opening of the stoma.	-	
			Explain why, after the potassium channels open, positive potassium ions move into the cell against the concentration gradient.	1	
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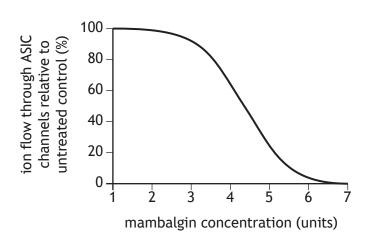
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6. (continued)

(b) Acid sensing ion channels (ASICs) are involved in the perception of pain and are activated by small changes in the pH of the surrounding cellular environment. *Mambalgin* is another toxin found in black mamba venom, which is known to be able to bind to ASICs.

The graph shows the effect of increasing the dose of mambalgin on the activity of ASIC ion channels.



(i) Describe the effect of mambalgin concentration on the activity of the ASIC channels.

(ii) Laboratory experiments on mice show that mambalgin has a similar effect to that of a strong painkiller.

Suggest the mechanism by which mambalgin might work as a painkiller by preventing the generation of a nerve impulse.

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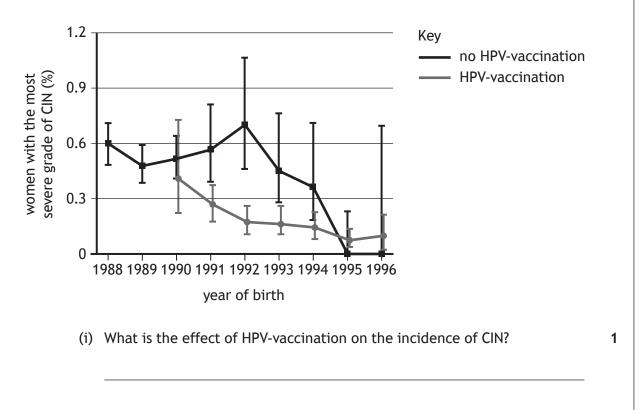
MARKS | DO NOT WRITE IN THIS 7. Some viruses can deregulate cell division in cells and cause tumours. Simian virus 40 (SV40) is a virus that naturally infects some species of monkeys. SV40 infection rarely causes disease in its natural host, but it has been shown to be able to induce tumours in laboratory animals and transform rodent cells in culture by causing them to divide in an unregulated way. infection with SV40 hamster fibroblast transformed cell (a) (i) Cells transformed with SV40 have features of tumour cells in culture. State one way in which tumour cell lines differ from primary cell lines in culture. 1 (ii) Suggest one advantage of studying SV40 in laboratory animals rather than in cell culture. 1 (b) Large T antigen (Tag) is a protein encoded by the SV40 genome. This protein is essential for SV40's tumour-forming capabilities. Tag has been shown to bind to and inactivate the tumour suppressor p53. 1 (i) Give one outcome of p53 activation in a normal cell. (ii) Tag has also been shown to bind to and inactivate the retinoblastoma protein (Rb). Explain how the interaction of Tag with Rb would disrupt the normal control of cell division. 2



7. (continued)

(c) Human papillomavirus (HPV) is another virus that has also been found to inhibit p53 and Rb. HPV can cause the development of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN), the abnormal growth of cells that line the cervix that can lead to the development of cervical cancer.

A recent study in Scotland assessed the impact of routine vaccination against HPV on the development of CIN in the first year of screening. The graph shows the effect of HPV-vaccination on the percentage of women found to have the most severe grade of CIN by cervical screening.



(ii) Explain how the data support the suggestion that vaccination against HPV could lead to herd immunity.

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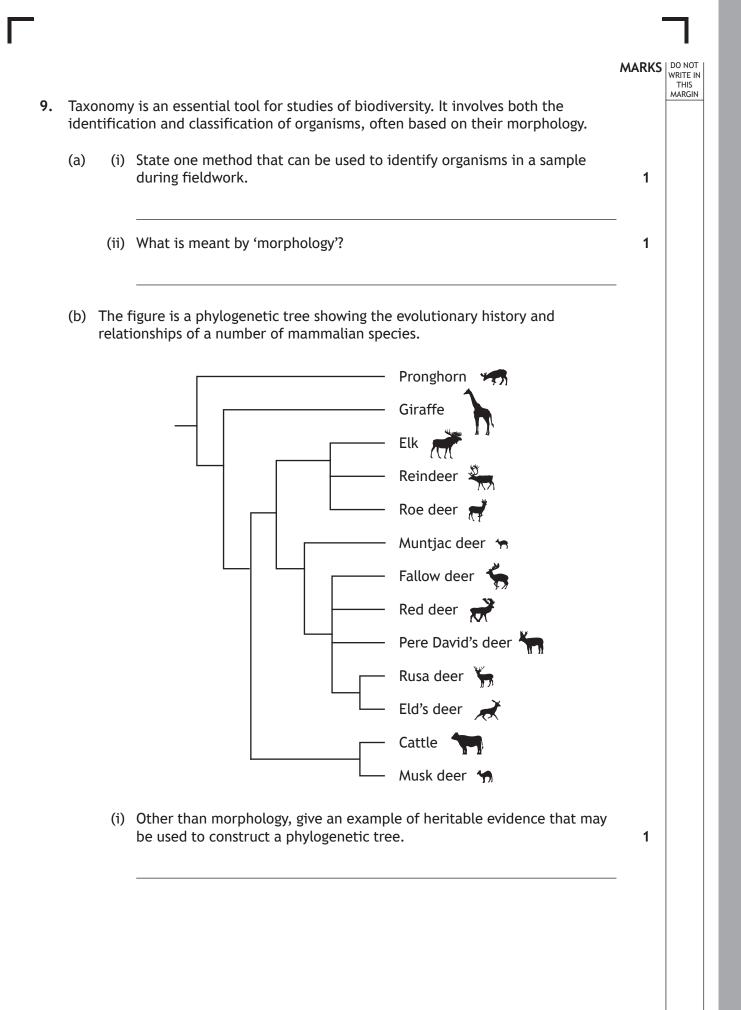


			MARKS	DO NO WRITE THIS MARGI						
	As bananas ripen, the insoluble starch in the cells is converted to soluble sugars giving a sweet taste.									
A student wanted to estimate the changes in soluble carbohydrate content of bananas using colorimetry. They crushed peeled banana segments in distilled water and centrifuged the resulting extract. The supernatant was pipetted off into vials and tested with Anthrone reagent. Anthrone turns a blue-green colour with carbohydrates. This coloured solution was then tested in a colorimeter measuring absorbance at 620 nm. Five bananas attached together in a bunch were used. One banana from the bunch was taken and tested each day for 5 days.										
	The student prepared a range of concentrations of glucose solutions and tested these in the same way as the banana extract solutions.									
(a)	The student used information from a peer reviewed article to develop their method using Anthrone reagent.									
	Desc	ribe what happens during the peer review process.	1							
(b)	(i)	Identify a positive control for this experiment.	- 1							
	(ii)	Suggest why it was important to use bananas originally attached in a single bunch rather than separate bananas.	- 1							
(c)		student used data from the known glucose concentrations to construct a dard curve.	-							
	Desc	ribe the purpose of this standard curve.	1							
			-							
			-							



			MARKS	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
8.	(coi	ntinued)		MARCOIN
	(d)			
		In the pilot study, the student did not use the centrifuge.		
		Explain why using the centrifuge is an improvement to this experimental procedure.	1	
			_	
			_	
	(e)		_	
		banana extract to ensure the concentration was controlled.	1	
			_	
			_	
			_	
	(f)		4	
		State one feature of an independent replicate for this experiment.	1	
			_	
	(g)	Give one reason, other than the lack of independent replication, and the	_	
		extract concentration, why any results achieved might be considered invalid.	1	
			_	
			_	
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			•	
-		* X 8 0 7 7 7 0 1 2 1 *		

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9. (b) (continued)

 (ii) Tick (✓) the box to indicate which of the following statements is correct from the evidence shown.

Red deer are more closely related to reindeer than elk	
Cattle are closer relatives of fallow deer than giraffes	
Pere David's deer and red deer have evolved at the same rate	

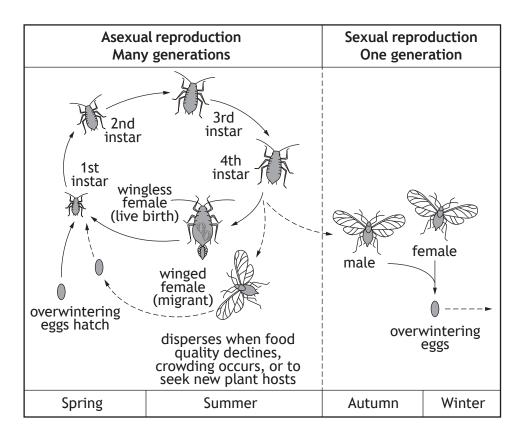
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10. Aphids are small insects adapted to feed on plants by piercing and sucking sap from them. Many crop species are hosts of aphid species and the rapid reproduction rate of aphids represents a significant challenge to food crop production.

Aphids have complex life cycles as shown in the figure.



(a) The form of asexual reproduction carried out by aphids is called parthenogenesis.

State the meaning of the term parthenogenesis.

1

(b) Many invertebrates act as vectors for plant viruses.

Use the figure to explain how aphids may act as vectors for plant viruses.





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10.	(coi	ntinue	d)		
			rtance of aphids in food security has prompted research into how they are by climate change.	•	
	(c)	prod dura	study of 55 aphid species, it was found that over a period of many years al uced winged forms earlier in the year. Most species showed an increased tion of the flight season. These aphid flight trends follow trends in climate ge associated with rising global temperatures.		
		(i)	Predict with justification the effect of these trends on crop production.	1	
				-	
		(ii)	Suggest one evolutionary benefit to aphid populations from increased sexual reproduction made possible by climate change.	1	
				-	
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11. Several hypotheses regarding the adaptive significance of zebra stripes have been proposed. One study investigated the effect that stripes might have on biting insects. Biting flies are serious pests of many animals, affecting behaviour and productivity.

In this study, an experiment was carried out that involved painting striped patterns on Japanese Black cows. Changes in fly-repelling behaviours and the number of biting flies landing on the cows were observed.

Three cows were each subjected to three different treatments:

- Treatment 1 (BW) painted stripes using white lacquer (4–5 cm wide)
- Treatment 2 (BB) painted stripes using black lacquer (4–5 cm wide)
- Treatment 3 (CONT) no painted stripes (control)

The figure shows a Japanese Black cow with white painted stripes (BW).



The researchers used a grid called a Latin Square to organise the treatments given to each cow. Each experiment lasted for 9 days and was made up of three periods, each lasting for 3 days.

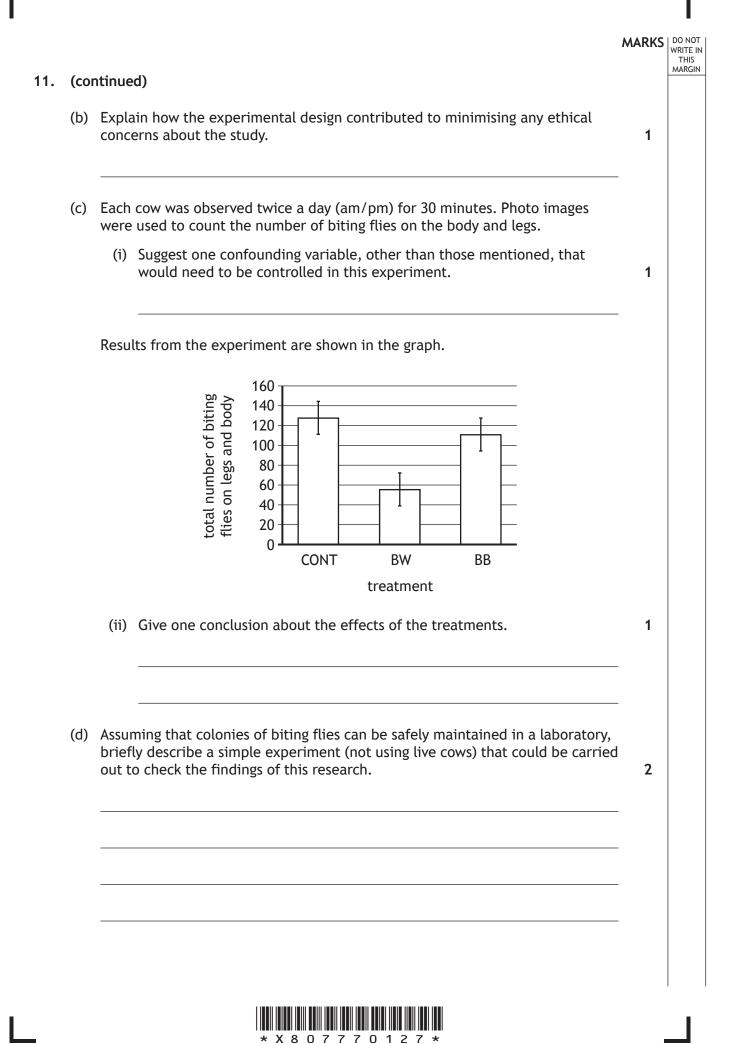
Each cow experienced all three treatments over the course of the three periods. Only one cow was assigned to each treatment in one period.

(a) Use the codes **BW/BB/CONT** to complete the grid to show one way in which the treatments could have been organised as a Latin Square.

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
Cow 1			
Cow 2			
Cow 3			



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page 27

12. *Batillaria cumingi* is a mudsnail species abundant in saltmarshes and mudflats in north-east Asia. This snail is frequently infected with trematode (flatworm) parasites such as Cercaria batillariae. A study was carried out to see the effect of these parasites on the growth and behaviour of the snail hosts.



MARKS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

1

Batillaria cumingi

At the principal study sites infected snails were 20–30% longer than uninfected snails, and their reproductive ability was either blocked or ended.

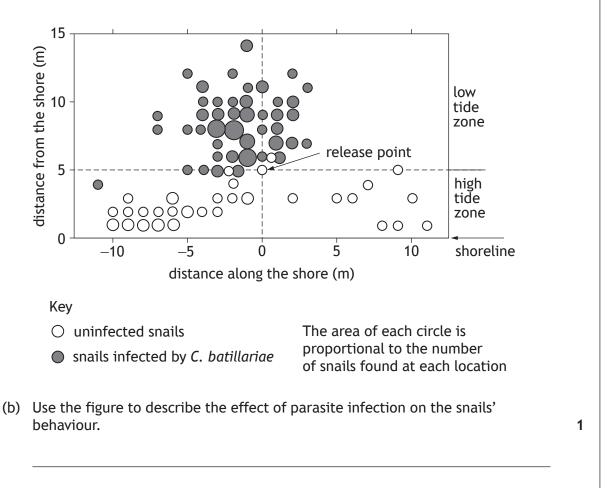
(a) Suggest one benefit to the parasites of the changes induced in the snails.



12. (continued)

A transplant experiment was carried out in which 200 snails, collected from both the upper and lower shores, were moved to the boundary between the upper and lower tidal zones and released. After two weeks the vertical and horizontal distances from the release point were recorded for the snails that were recaptured. All snails were examined for parasites.

Results are shown in the figure.



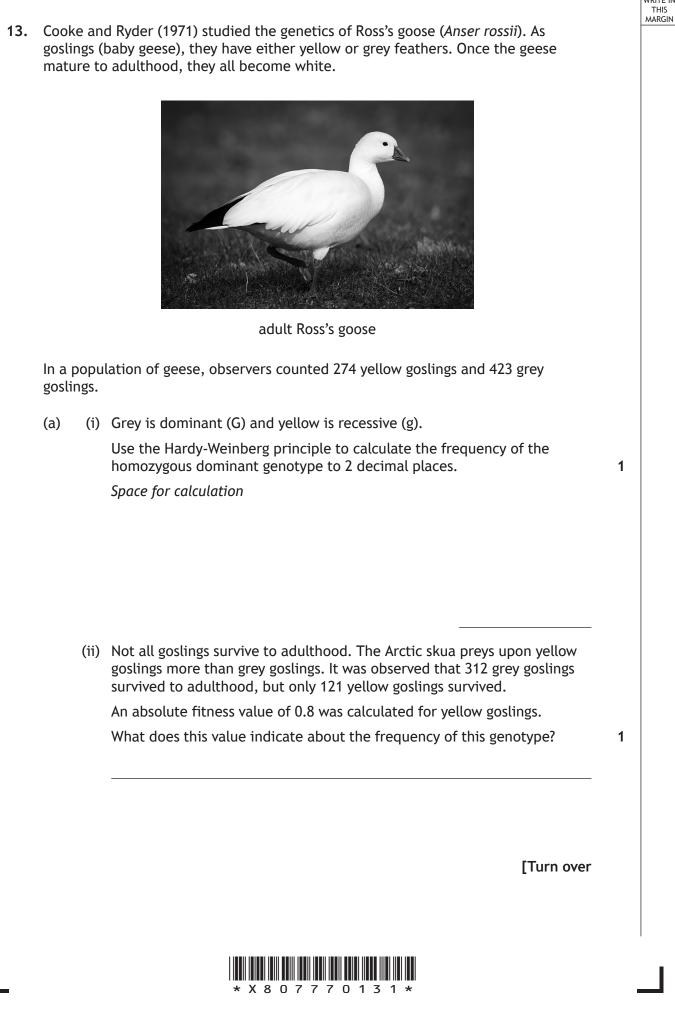
(c) Suggest how a new ecological niche for these snails may be created by the changes in their growth and behaviour caused by this parasite.

[Turn over



			MARKS	DO NOT WRITE IN
12.	(cor	ntinued)		THIS MARGIN
	(d)	The mark and recapture technique was involved in some stages of this research.		
		Describe how the mark and recapture technique could be used to estimate the size of a population.	3	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	





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MARKS DO NOT WRITE IN TAKEN 13. (continued) (b) Ross's geese form a symbiotic relationship with a nematode parasite, Amidostomum spatulatum. 1 What is meant by a symbiotic relationship? 1 (c) For many nemotode parasites, definitive hosts are infected through direct uptake of eggs or larvae passed from faeces of infected definitive hosts. 1 What is meant by a definitive host? 1



				MARKS	DO NOT WRITE IN
					THIS MARGIN
14.	Atte	empt e	either A or B. Write your answer in the space below and on page 34.		
	Α	Discuss animal reproduction strategies under the following headings:			
		(i)	mating systems in animals	3	
		(ii)	courtship and female choice.	6	
	OR				
	В	Discu	iss changes in allele frequency under the following headings:		
		(i)	natural selection	4	
		(ii)	genetic drift.	5	



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National Qualifications 2022

X807/77/11

Biology Supplementary sheet

THURSDAY, 19 MAY 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Supplementary sheet for question 1

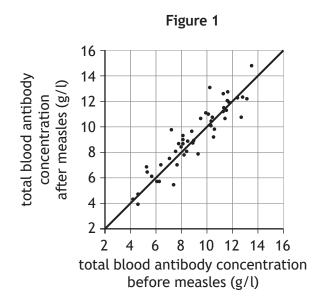




1. Measles is a highly infectious disease, caused by the measles virus, which resulted in the death of approximately 110 000 individuals globally during 2017. It also causes suppression of the immune system; this can last for more than five years and results in further deaths from other infectious diseases.

A recent study investigated the levels of antibodies in the blood before and after measles infection. The total antibody concentration in the blood (total antibodies against **all** antigens to which individuals have been exposed) was measured in 50 children who became infected with the measles virus.

Measurements were taken before and after measles infection and are shown in Figure 1.



Antibody production is a dynamic process where individuals continuously produce new antibodies in response to exposure to new antigens.

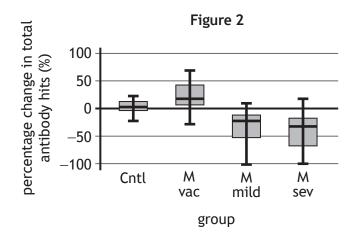
In a second study, the authors investigated the diversity of antibodies present in the blood by testing for antibodies against around 400 human pathogens. The technique used detected antibodies still present in the blood as a result of current or past viral infections. The total antibody hits, defined as the number of diseases to which each child possessed antibodies, was recorded at the two time points: once before infection or vaccination, and once afterwards.

The children were split into four groups:

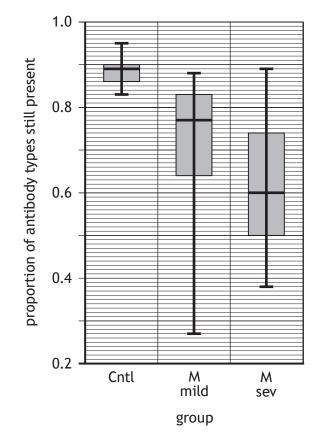
- Cntl: control with unvaccinated children who were not exposed to measles virus
- M vac: children vaccinated against measles
- M mild: unvaccinated children who contracted measles with mild symptoms
- M sev: unvaccinated children who contracted measles with severe symptoms.

1. (continued)

The percentage change in total antibody hits between the first and second time point was calculated and is shown in the box plot in **Figure 2**.



The retention of antibodies between the two time points was investigated. All types of antibodies present at the first time point were tested for again at the second time point, and the proportion of antibody types still present from one time point to the next was calculated and is shown in the box plot in **Figure 3**.





[END OF SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET]